

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*Old Indiana County Jail and Sheriff's Office*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Southwest corner, Sixth Street and Nixon Avenue*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Indiana*

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

*12*

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

CODE

*42*

COUNTY

*Indiana*

CODE

*063***3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC☐ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☒ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☒ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Indiana County**Presently vacant- will house central support functions for National Bank of the Commonwealth.*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Eighth and Philadelphia Streets*

CITY, TOWN

*Indiana*

VICINITY OF

STATE  
*Pennsylvania**15701***5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.*Indiana County Courthouse*

STREET &amp; NUMBER

*Eighth and Philadelphia Streets*

CITY, TOWN

*Indiana*

STATE

*Pennsylvania***6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

*Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places*

DATE

*4-4-79*☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS*Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission*

CITY, TOWN

*Harrisburg*

STATE

*Pennsylvania*

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Indiana County Jail and Sheriff's House are significant not only as components of a law enforcement grouping which also includes the Second Empire Courthouse, joined to the jail by an enclosed bridge at second floor level, but for their stylistic qualities as well. They illustrate two different applications of a single stylistic manner. Constructed during 1887-1888, the two brick structures might best be classified as Italianate, though with a few vestiges of classical detailing. The jail is attached to the rear of the house, and both buildings feature the same general massing and ornamental treatment, though adapted to suit their respective functions. Both are basically central blocks with slightly projecting gables, featuring stepped brick corbeling, on four sides. All corners are accentuated with stone quoins. Small scale Italianate brackets support classical dentil cornices, which break for dormers on the house and gable returns on both structures. The tall, narrow windows emphasize the vertical proportions typical of the Italianate manner. Raised basements and a stone string course between the first and second floors help to visually tie the house and jail together.

Beyond these basic similarities, the two structures may be distinguished for their expressions of functions through detailing. The Sheriff's House features the decorative amenities expected on a prominent residence of its era: incised window caps, a bay window with more of the bracketed and dentil cornice used under the eaves, and delicately tooled woodwork on the porch entrances on three sides. Inside, the woodwork is of the dark and heavy variety typical of the era. Interior doors are crowned by transoms and heavy bracketed cornices. The stair balustrade is interesting for its use of squared supports, incised both vertically and horizontally, and joined by squared horizontal pieces. A common concentric circle motif appears on interior door and window frames as well as on the newels of the stairway.

The Jail, in contrast, projects the more serious nature of its function through a general lack of ornament and the use of vertical banks of barred windows of the same narrow proportions seen in the Sheriff's House. A large chimney, consisting of a square base and octagonal tower and repeating the brick corbeling used elsewhere on the building, adds to the utilitarian quality of this part of the complex.

The old sheriff's house measures 37 feet from front to back (east/west) and 49.5 feet from side to side. The attached jail measures 49 feet (east/west) by 76 feet.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Location: George Clyme	

SPECIFIC DATES	1887-1888	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Builder: John S. Hastings Architect: C.H. Sparks
----------------	-----------	-------------------	---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The old jail and sheriff's house are located on the same property as (and directly behind) Indiana's old courthouse. (Restored and renovated by National Bank of the Commonwealth and used by the bank as central offices for its regional banking network, the old courthouse was elected to the Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places in 1973 and later to the National Register of Historic Places.) Although they served completely separate functions, the old jail and sheriff's house share the same structure.

The old sheriff's house, facing south 6th Street comprising the eastern half of the structure, contained twelve rooms including an office for the sheriff, a large kitchen, a waiting room and, on the upper floors, bedrooms and other facilities as would normally be found in a private residence. The responsibility for feeding the inmates and routine cleaning and maintenance within the jail fell upon the sheriff's wife and other family members.

The old jail, the western portion of the structure, was Indiana County's fourth jail. The basic interior design, accepted by the county Board of Commissioners in September, 1886, called for a jail with all-steel cells to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$50,000. A central hallway running north - south in the center of the jail was open to sky lights on the roof of the structure. An all-steel stairway at the south end of the corridor led up to the second floor of cells accessed by two walkways, one on each side of the open hallway.

In the northern fourth of the jail structure were three floors of cells, separate from the main cell block. These cells, two floors earmarked for female and juvenile residents and a third for the most bothersome prisoners, were slightly smaller than those in the main cell block. In its entirety, the jail could accommodate 26 male, 4 female and 2 juvenile inhabitants.

The jail in its entirety was accessed by a hallway running the entire width of the structure from the basement to the roof. The primary entrance, protected by a large steel door, was through the sheriff's office in the house portion. A network of steel and concrete stairways provided access to the cells on all levels and at roof level to the courtroom of the old courthouse through an above ground enclosed hallway.

Typical of small town jails, Indiana's provided, in the same facility, over-night housing for drunks, fighters, vagrants and committers of a myriad of other minor wrongs, as well as those tried and convicted of major crimes where the visit lasted considerably longer. On fewer occasions, jail residents were awaiting the carrying out of the ultimate sentence of the courts - hanging. The courtyard between the old courthouse and the open area in the center of the main cell block were used to carry out the sentence depending on the time of year. The last hanging in Indiana County was carried out inside the old jail on November 23, 1913. The sheriff George H. Jeffries, who's son, Paul, later served as sheriff for more than 20 years, had the duty of springing the trap for the execution.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

*OLD INDIANA COUNTY JAIL AND SHERIFF'S OFFICE*

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

*The above ground walkway which leads directly from the courtroom, on the second floor of the old courthouse, to the upper level of the old jail lent an air of finality to the decisions meeted out by Judge and Jury. Wrong doers convicted and sentenced in the courtroom knew they may not again see the sky until their time was served.*

*The old jail and sheriff's house served the county for 85 years. In January 1966 the Inspections Division of the Bureau of Correction rated the jail as inadequate and obsolete and recommended that a new jail be built. In 1973 the last prisoners were transferred to the new modern jail (Indiana's 5th) built some 2½ blocks west of the old jail and sheriff's house complex.*

*A separate aspect of significance lies in the history of the land on which the old jail and sheriff's house sit, and which they share with the old Indiana County Courthouse. This land was presented to Indiana County in 1805 by George Clymer, of Philadelphia, a signer of both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.*

*Clymer contributed 250 acres for the establishment of Indiana Borough, on the condition that this town be named the County Seat; within the 250 acres, which did become the County Seat, the parcel of land in question was earmarked for public buildings and use.*

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3

QUADRANGLE NAME Indiana, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 656300 4498330

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

E         

G         

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D         

F         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Bounded on south by old Indiana County Courthouse, on north by Nixon Avenue, on east by North Sixth Street and west by Court Way.*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

National Bank of the Commonwealth

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 400

412-349-3400

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Indiana

Pennsylvania

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Ed Weintraub

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation

6-4-79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3

QUADRANGLE NAME Indiana, Pennsylvania

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 656300 4498330

B         

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Bounded on south by old Indiana County Courthouse, on north by Nixon Avenue, on east by North Sixth Street and west by Court Way.*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

--	--	--	--

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

National Bank of the Commonwealth

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 400

412-349-3400

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Indiana

Pennsylvania

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Ed Weintraub

DATE

Office of Historic Preservation

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

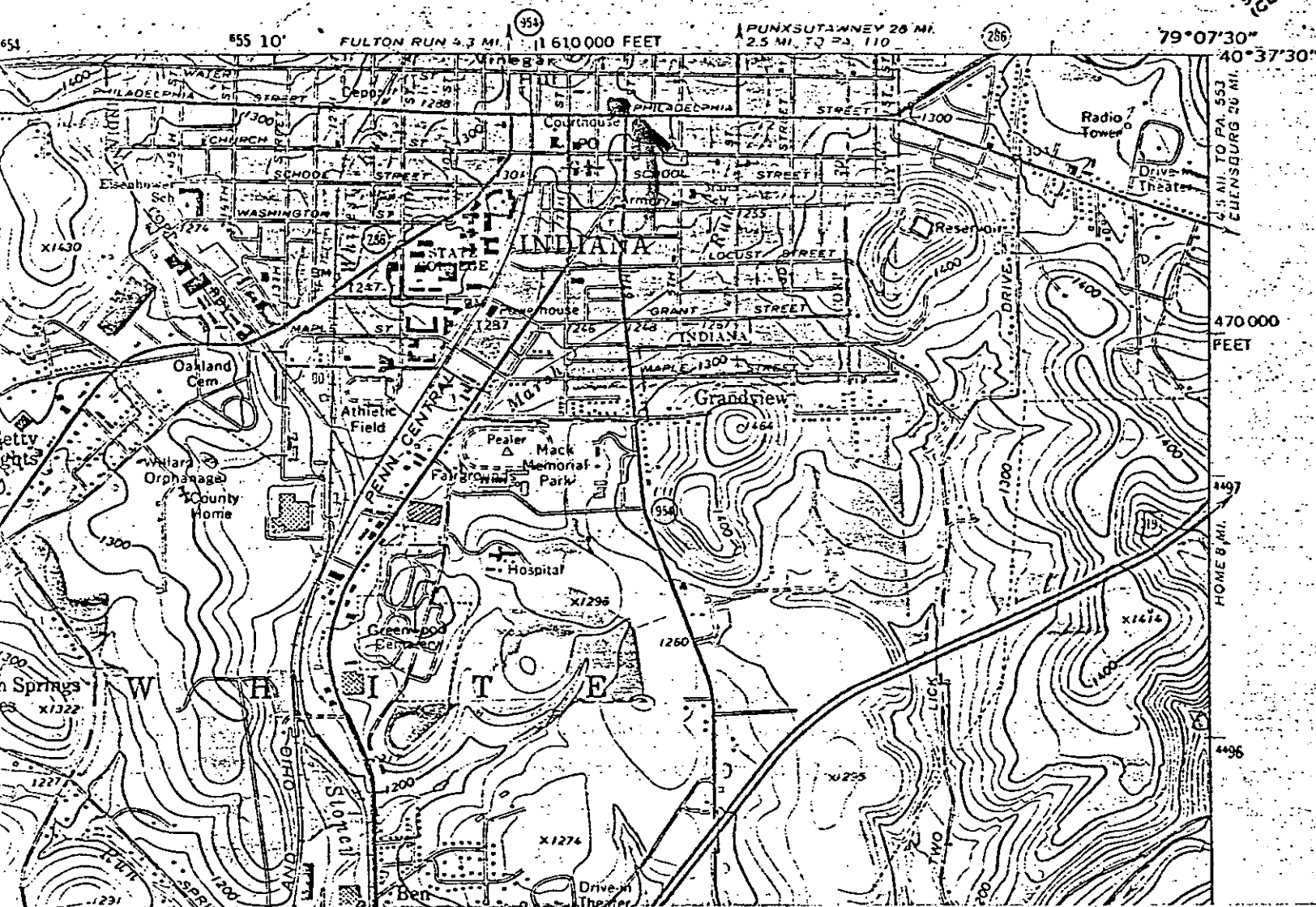
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Revised 1973

INDIANA QUADRANGLE  
PENNSYLVANIA-INDIANA CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5165 HINE  
(GLYMER)

Property is located within Indiana Borough and is bounded on the south by the old Indiana County Courthouse, on the north by Nixon Avenue, on the east by North Sixth Street and on the west by Court Way.